

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROB 08501 061505Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02

PM-05 OMB-01 SSO-00 /034 W

-----084856 061529Z /72S

O 061417Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7950

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 8501

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG, FR, BE, KE

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: STATE 140672

1. AS INSTRUCTED BY REFERENCE. I MET TODAY WITH FONOFF PERMANENT SECRETARY, NICHOLAS NG'ANG'A, AND WENT OVER POINTS SET FORTH IN REFERENCE AND IN STATE 137343. I STRESSED FACT THAT USG CONSIDERED SHABA SITUATION A ZAIRIAN PROBLEM, WHICH WE FELT SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN AFRICAN CONTEXT. I SAID THAT US HAD LENT ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORT AND HAD PARTICIPATED IN PARIS MEETING(WHICH GIVEN FULL COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRESS) IN HOPES OF HELPING BOLSTER IMMEDIATE SECURITY IN SHABA. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT POSSIBLE US ASSISTANCE TO PROPOSED INTER-AFRICAN FORCE FOR SHABA STABILIZATION DID NOT IMPLY ANY US COMMITMENT TO BROADER AFRICAN MUTUAL SECURITY SCHEME. I CONCLUDED BY ASKING NG'ANG'A ABOUT BOK THOUGHTS ON PROPOSED INTER-AFRICAN FORCE.

2. NG'ANG'A SAID THAT GOK DID NOT FAVOR CREATION OF INTER-AFRICAN FORCE AS IT HAD BEEN DESCRIBED IN MEDIA REPORTS. GOK HAD GATHERED THAT INITIATIVE FOR INTER-AFRICAN FORCE CAME FROM FRANCE WITH COOPERATION FROM SOME OF ITS MAJOR WESTERN ALLIES. NG'ANG'A SAID THAT GOK FELT THAT THE PLAN LOOKED SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE A SOLUTION IMPOSED UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE, RATHER THAN A SOLUTION INITIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE. HE SAID HE BELIEVED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NAIROB 08501 061505Z

MOST OTHER AFRICANS WOULD LOOK AT THE MATTER IN THE SAME WAY.

3. NG'ANG'A SAID THAT THE GOK WAS CONVINCED THAT THE CREATION OF SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY DEVISIVE ISSUE WITHIN THE OAU, SINCE SOME AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD VERY PROBABLY SUPPORT THE IDEA, WHILE OTHERS WOULD BE VIOLENTLY OPPOSED. KENYA FELT THAT NO DURABLE GOOD COULD COME FROM SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT.

4. NG'ANG'A WENT ON TO SAY THAT, ALTHOUGH THE GOK MIGHT OPPOSE THE FORMATION OF AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCES AS A DISCRETE ENTITY, KENYA CERTAINLY SUPPORTED THE RIGHT OF ANY NATION TO CALL UPON OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE IN TIME OF NEED. THUS, KENYA WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE APPROACHED ONE OR MORE AFRICAN COUNTRIES BILATERALLY AND ASKED FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE FROM THEM. THE ESSENTIAL RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE AND THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS, NOT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE AND SOME ILL-DEFINED INTERNATIONAL FORCE RESPONSIBLE TO NO ONE. IF, THEN ZAIRE CALLED UPON THE UNITED STATES OR ITS WESTERN ALLIES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THESE NATIONAL CONTINGENTS, KENYA WOULD THINK SUCH ACTION PERFECTLY PROPER.

5. NG'ANG'A SAID THAT, FROM HIS OWN POINT OF VIEW, PROPOSED INTER-AFRICAN FORCE LOOKED LIKE WHITE PEOPLE CASTING ABOUT FOR A WAY TO PROTECT WHITE PEOPLE'S INTERESTS, GIVING ONLY SECONDARY CONSIDERATION TO ANY LONG-TERM BENEFIT TO THE COUNTRY CONCERNED.

6. NG'ANG'A SAID ITS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED INTER-AFRICAN FORCE DID NOT MEAN THAT THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT WAS INDIFFERENT TO THE KATANGESE INVASION OF SHABA. ON THE CONTRARY, THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF OAU PHILOSOPHY CONDEMNED ANY NATION FROM HARBORING OR TRAINING INSURGENTS TO ATTACK ANY NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. THAT ANGOLA HAD HARBORED AND HAD PERMITTED THE TRAINING AND ARMING OF THE KATANGESE FORCES WAS CERTAINLY WORTHY OF CONDEMNATION.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NAIROB 08501 061505Z

THIS, HOWEVER, DID NOT JUSTIFY THE EUROPEANS' ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT, WHICH IS A ZAIRIAN INTERNAL MATTER.

7. NG'ANG'A SAID THAT THE GOK WAS CONVINCED THAT NO ATTEMPT TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION IN SHABA WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL FOR VERY LONG UNLESS ENERGETIC MEASURES WERE TAKEN BY MOBUTU TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF HIS GOVERNMENT, END CORRUPTION, AND DEVOTE HIMSELF SERIOUSLY TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT IF MOBUTU GOVERNMENT CONTINUED IN ITS PAST PRACTICES, NO OUTSIDE HELP COULD PREVENT THE DISINTEGRATION OF ZAIRE.

8. COMMENT: NG'ANG'A REMARKS WERE VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH TODAY'S EDITORIAL IN THE DAILY NATION(WHICH GENERALLY REFLECTS GOK VIEWS) ENTITLED "THE IMPUDENCE OF THE WEST." THE EDITORIAL SAYS:"AT A TIME WHEN FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS IS A MAJOR ISSUE, IT IS RATHER IMPUDENT OF FIVE WESTERN POWERS TO MEET TO DISCUSS AMONG THEMSELVES HOW THAT VERY ISSUE SHOULD BE HANDLED...BY MEETING AMONG THEMSELVES THE FIVE HAVE LAID THEMSELVES OPEN TO CHARGES OF CONSPIRING TO INTERVENE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND THEREFORE INDIRECTLY LEGITIMATIZING CUBAN AND RUSSIAN

ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA... IN ADDITION, THEY ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TO BRUISE THE AFRICAN PRIDE (OR EGO) IN SOME QUARTERS, EVEN WHERE THEIR INTENTIONS ARE MOST WELCOME."

9. THE MAJOR POINT, WHICH HAS ALSO COME OUT QUITE CLEARLY IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD RECENTLY, IS THAT THE KENYANS RESENT WHAT APPEARS TO THEM TO BE A EUROPEAN CONCLUSION THAT THE AFRICANS ARE INCAPABLE OF HANDLING A SITUATION THEMSELVES AND THEREFORE MUST HAVE A EUROPEAN SOLUTION FORCES UPON THEM. THE KENYANS CLEARLY RECOGNIZE THAT MOBUTU ISN'T CAPABLE OF COPING WITH THE SHABA SITUATION BY HIMSELF, BUT THE COLONIAL PERIOD IS NOT SO FAR BEHIND THAT THIS RECOGNITION DOES NOT GIVE THEM AN UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING.

BLANE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NAIROB 08501 061505Z

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATED WITH S/S-O MR. GAMBLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB08501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780236-0360
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780692/aaaadave.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e0a6e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 140672
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2476980
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, MASS, CG, FR, BE, KE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e0a6e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014